

REMARKS

Claims 15-17, 19-24 and 33-35 are pending in this application. Claim 15 is an independent claim.

By this Amendment, independent claim 15 is amended for clarity and to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Figs. 3 and 4A-4G. Claims 16, 17, 19-24, 33 and 34 are amended for consistency in view of the amendments to claim 15. Claim 35 is added to recite features deleted from claim 15. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references submitted with the January 31, 2011 Information Disclosure Statement.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Matthews during the telephone interview held February 15, 2011, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

I. The §103(a) Rejection Should be Withdrawn

The Office Action rejects claims 15-17, 19-24, 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,468,306 to Paul et al. (Paul) in view of JP 09-276303 (Hoya). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claims are amended, as outlined above. The amended claims were discussed during the February 15 telephone interview. As agreed during the telephone interview, the claims, as amended, overcome the §103(a) rejection. In particular, as discussed during the telephone interview, amended claim 15 requires a smooth transition on the anterior surface. At the same time, claim 15 also requires a step at the posterior surface. As acknowledged by Examiner Matthews, neither Paul nor Hoya discloses this combination of features, because, although Paul and Hoya may arguably disclose a "step," such "step" is on both the anterior

surface and the posterior surface. See Fig. 14(a) of Paul and Fig. 2 of Hoya. Paul and Hoya do not disclose a smooth transition on the anterior surface. There would have been no reasonable rationale to change Paul or Hoya to have a smooth transition at the anterior surface, while, at the same time, to main a "step" at the posterior surface. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

New claim 35 depends from claim 15. Claim 35 is also patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 15, as well as for additional features it recites.

II. The Laguette Reference

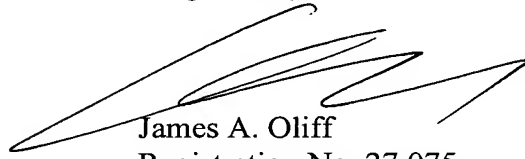
During the telephone interview, Applicants' representative, Mr. Gang Luo, also asserted that one of ordinary skill would not have had any reasonable rationale to combine the teachings of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0161434 to Laguette et al. (Laguette) with the teachings of Paul and Hoya. In particular, as explained by Mr. Luo during the telephone interview, although Laguette discloses a region 80 of reduced thickness (or "step") on the posterior surface at paragraph [0015], such a "step" functions as a hinge that is specific for the disk shape of Laguette's lens to facilitate the axial movement of the optic 212. See Laguette at paragraph [0052] and Figs. 5 and 7. On the other hand, the configuration disclosed in Paul uses fixation members 204 (haptics). See Figs. 1 and 14A and col. 12, lines 5-11 of Paul. Hoya discloses similar configurations. See Figs. 1 and 2 of Hoya. As is well known in the art, the haptics are inherently flexible to facilitate axial movement. An additional hinge would be unnecessary. Thus, one of ordinary skill would not have had any reasonable rationale to combine the hinge of Laguette into the configuration of Paul and Hoya. Accordingly, a combination of Laguette with Paul or Hoya against the configuration recited in claim 15 would be improper.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 15-17, 19-24 and 33-35 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/kjb

Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: March 3, 2011

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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